

SEVENTEEN THOUSAND OF GERMAN INVADERS TAKEN PRISONERS BY THEIR FOE

Official French Statement Tells of the Surrender of One Batch of Thirteen Hundred Teutons Together With More Than One Hundred and Eighty Machine Guns and Seventy-five of the Larger Cannon

PETROGRAD, April 19.—A report from Jassy, Rumania, which was made public by the Russian general staff last night, announced that the Germans have been burning the towns of Braila and Fokshani in Rumania. In the opinion of experts here this is taken to mean that von Mackensen is getting ready to evacuate his present lines in Rumania. It may foreshadow a general retirement.

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) NEW YORK, April 19.—Seventeen thousand unrounded German prisoners have been taken by the French since their great offensive began Monday and the British also have added to their bag of invaders. Both of the Entente armies have increased largely their total of booty seized from the hard hammered invaders, the French alone yesterday having taken seventy-five heavy guns and one hundred and eighty machine guns.

The demoralization which has been steadily increasing in the German rank and file of late was more than marked yesterday, according to the official communiques issued from London and Paris as well as from the censored despatches from the front.

The clearest evidence of this was the fact that one French regiment reports the capture of three hundred German prisoners taken from seven different regiments, showing that the German commands are becoming badly mixed up in the constant fighting to which they have been subjected of late.

In another sector of the long battle front says the official Paris report, thirteen hundred Germans, when surrounded made no attempt to fight to the finish but threw down their arms and surrendered en masse.

The French are continuing their offensive with unabated fury and undiminished success on the Champagne battle front. Their main objective appears to be the driving of a wedge into the German line in the rear, or south of Laon, thereby pinching out the salient in the Teutonic positions around that fortress.

In this they have been markedly successful so far. Many of the more important positions which have been held by the Germans have fallen into the hands of the troops under the command of General Nivelle. The forest of Ville Au Bois was the scene yesterday of surrender of large numbers of the Germans. Here the French effected a successful encircling movement which took in the entire wood, which had been carefully fortified by the invaders.

Immediately upon the completion of the movement and the German soldiers saw themselves surrounded they threw down their arms and surrendered. Thirteen hundred unrounded prisoners were taken in the wood, together with scores of machine guns.

Between the sector north of Soissons and the fighting front north of Rheims, the battle was exceptionally fierce yesterday.

But here also the French were successful and they report that in that district they took many prisoners and more than one hundred and eighty machine guns. Here also they took the fortified positions of Ouel and Braye En Laonnois, Chavonne and Chivy.

In this district though the Germans made frantic efforts to hold back the advancing French line their own demoralization was marked. It was here that one French regiment captured three hundred Germans belonging to no less than seven different regiments. Great quantities of material also fell into the hands of the attackers in this district.

Between Juvincourt and the Aisne river front the heaviest fighting of the day took place. Again and again the Germans counter attacked the French line and when night came they had left more than four thousand dead on the three mile stretch of country.

South of Saint Quentin and east of Guise the Germans also attacked yesterday in the vain hope of stemming the tide, but the affair proved abortive. Later in the day they struck again and this time they entered the French positions, but before they had time to consolidate their gains the counter attack of the potius drove them out once more with the loss of hundreds killed and scores of prisoners.

General Haig, commanding the British forces to the north of Saint Quentin also struck hard yesterday, and the official communiques issued by the British war office told of their success on the Scarpe River front to the east of the town of Fampour.

Still farther to the north in the region around Loos the British also gained considerable ground, while farther to the south they took the towns of Villers and Guisla.

The Berlin reports of the fighting in the Champagne declared that the French had been repulsed and that the Germans had taken three thousand prisoners.

There was violent fighting in Rumania, where the Rumanians repulsed a heavy attack by the Germans. In Macedonia, the fighting was of minor importance.

DEATH TAKES OFF BARON VON BISSING

Former Governor of Conquered Belgium Goes At Last To Meet His Reward

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) LONDON, April 19.—Despatches from the Reuter correspondent at Copenhagen last night announced the death in Germany of General von Bissing, at one time governor of Belgium. He is reported to have died last night.

General Baron von Bissing, who was appointed governor general of the conquered territory of Belgium, won fame for himself as one of the best administrators of "frightfulness." The Kaiser had at his disposal. In Germany his rule was regarded as being too tight and not a few of the papers demanded "more of the iron hand" until the semi-official Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung pointed out that "it would be impossible for Belgium to meet the demands of the victors if her life blood is drained away too early." It was further pointed out that the Germans would be the "losers by any unmerciful harshness at this time."

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WEATHER AND CROP REPORTS ARE POOR

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) WASHINGTON, April 19.—Reports of weather and crop conditions contained in the regular crop reports issued by the department of agriculture yesterday announced that conditions for crops have been bad owing to unfavorable weather. Almost everywhere last week temperatures were low and the season backward. This handicaps the farmers in their efforts to carry out the appeal made to them by President Wilson and the Secretary of Agriculture to bend every effort to increase the food crops of the United States.

CROWDS IN RIO RIOT AGAINST THE TEUTONS

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, April 19.—Despatches from Porto Alegre last night reported demonstrations against the Germans in that place, the attacking and looting of a German newspaper office and other establishments and the burning of a large German store. A German owned hotel and club, together with a number of German restaurants were also destroyed. All told the loss to the Teutons here amounts to more than twenty million marks, approximately \$5,000,000. The German papers in Rio Janeiro have been suspended.

SPANISH STEAMER—NOT OF DIVER

Fresh Prussian Outrage May Force Government From Neutral Attitude

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) MADRID, April 18.—The Spanish steamship Tuna was torpedoed today off the coast of Spain. Eighteen lives were lost, according to late reports. This incident is expected still further to inflame Spain against Germany in spite of the persistent efforts of the Government to keep out of the war.

MADRID, March 15.—Count Romanones, president of the council of ministers, received a representative of The Associated Press at the residence today, and discussed the various questions growing out of the European war, as they affect Spain now and in the future, and the increasing importance which the war has given to strengthening the friendly relations and establishing a strong commercial understanding between Spain and the United States.

"Spain appears to be firmly determined to maintain her attitude of absolute neutrality between the two belligerent parties," was suggested to the President of the Council.

"Yes, absolute neutrality together with a maintenance of international law," he replied. "We feel that both should go together, and while determined not to vary from the course of neutrality which we have observed from the outset, we believe this should be done without permitting the principles of international law and justice to be obscured or varied in the slightest degree—a right which is of great importance to Spain and particularly to the lesser neutral countries like Switzerland, Holland, Denmark and the Scandinavian countries, for without the safeguard of international law, these lesser countries are at the complete mercy of the great and powerful nations."

"I will say frankly it is not always an easy task to reconcile this observance of neutrality with the maintenance of all the well-established safeguards of international law, because the war has created many entirely new conditions, never before presented when international law was being evolved, as in the case of the new discoveries by which warfare is conducted in the air, under the sea, and with the aid of wireless communication. We believe, however, that Spain will be able to accomplish these two desirable objects—neutrality and the observance of international law—and that in reality the seeming conflict between them is largely one of detail which can be adjusted by the exercise of good will and generous disposition."

"From what you have said," was suggested to the president of the council, "it is inferred that Spain is equally determined not to enter the war."

"That is a very definitely fixed policy on our part," he replied. "We do not want war and do not like war, and we not only hope but we confidently expect and believe there is no occasion whatever now, and will be no occasion in the future, requiring Spain to change her attitude of neutrality and enter the war. Spain has every interest in remaining at peace, and has absolutely no interest in going to war."

"You have only to look around and see our people contented and happy, while the people of the rest of Europe are suffering the most dreadful scourges that ever swept over a continent. Our internal conditions are practically normal, in industry, commerce, finance and in all the branches of economic development. While the rest of Europe is ravaged by war with death and destruction to an extent without parallel in the history of the world, with whole nations and races sunk in the very necessities of life, and with their entire social and economic fabric so dislocated that they will be burdened if not prostrate for two or three generations."

"Why should we throw aside all these splendid advantages which Providence and our isolated western geographical position give us, in order to cast our lot with those who are passing through the most fearful trial that ever fell upon nations. No, our path is clearly traced. Spain will not enter the war. There is absolutely no question of national honor involved which calls upon us in any way to enter into this dreadful slaughter."

"Then your Excellency does not regard the submarine question as a menace likely to draw Spain into war?"

"The submarine question is undoubtedly serious," he replied, "but all things are relative, and in considering the submarine question we should have regard to its relative bearing on the larger and supreme question of preserving a policy of peace as against war. The danger zones traced around the Entente nations, while they do not touch the coast of Spain yet they completely encircle us at a distance. This has had a serious effect on our commerce and has also affected our home industries to some extent. Spain's natural resources of iron, fruit, oil and many other products find their natural outlet in England, France, Germany and many of the other European countries, as well as to North and South America. And on the other hand our metal industries, railways, factories and public utilities depend to a considerable extent on getting their necessary supplies of coal from the Cardiff coals of England. But the danger zones encircling us have interfered with both these normal and essential branches of our trade, exportation and importation."

"Although the government is giving the most careful consideration to solving these questions, it has never for a moment regarded them as presenting an issue likely to involve Spain in war. Our aim is to mitigate the effects in every way possible. We have reason to hope this can be accomplished."

"Have the losses in Spanish ships and cargoes been great?" was asked.

"Comparatively slight," he replied.

CHARTER NOT YET DEAD AND TEARS ARE PREMATURE

Still Possible To Hold the Coming Primary Under New Law

NOTICE OF ELECTION IS MOVED UP FIFTEEN DAYS

Proclamation Duly Published By Secretary Thayer May Be Repeated Later On

Shed no tears for the dead charter; they may be spilled in vain. It is still possible to hold the coming primary election under the form of charter adopted by the legislature and now in the hands of the Governor, and if he should veto the bill, it is still possible for the legislature to override his veto.

Senator Castle introduced yesterday a bill drafted by the city attorney's office providing that notice of the primary election to be held in the City and County of Honolulu in 1917 shall be prepared and transmitted not less than FIFTEEN days prior to such primary.

With the exception of this clause, applying to Honolulu only, the bill is a re-enactment of Section 29, Revised Laws of 1915, which requires publication of a proclamation THREE days before the election. In obedience to the law as it now stands, a proclamation was duly published yesterday, calling an election under the terms of the existing charter; but if the amendment to the law contained in Senator Castle's bill passes the legislature and is signed by the Governor, another proclamation may be issued, calling an election to be held under the new charter.

Always provided that the Governor signs the new charter. The responsibility is now squarely up to him. He can't even let the bill die by inaction. He must either sign it or veto it.

An opinion yesterday by the attorney general held the bill to be technically correct. "It is an elementary rule," reads the opinion, "that the primary basis of interpretation of the law is to ascertain the legislative intent, and such intent should not be defeated by too strict a construction. For the purpose of ascertaining such intent the courts very often resort to legislative journals and facts outside of the language of the act. However, in the present case, without going outside the language of the act itself, there can be little doubt of the legislature's intent that this act should take effect from the date of its approval, as far as necessary for the purpose of the general election provided for the year 1917."

Applying the legal principle to the specific instance, if Governor Pinkham vetoes the bill, he must do so for reasons of policy, not under cover of any defect in phraseology in the bill as it reached him.

There remains twelve days of the legislative session, counting today. The new charter went to Governor Pinkham Tuesday noon. He has ten days in which to sign or veto it. Therefore if he holds it for the entire period, he still must act on it one way or the other three days before the legislature rises.

Or to put it the other way, supposing that he vetoes the bill, the legislature has three days in which to override his veto.

This reasoning is posited, however, on the supposition that the relief measure introduced yesterday by Senator Castle passes, and passes expeditiously. Unless the bill is rushed through at top speed, the Governor still will have the new charter in his hands, but will have power to hold the bill in the limbo-box for the ten days allotted him, and it will die by "pocket veto," without a chance for the legislature to re-pass it, for by that time the legislature will have adjourned sine die.

Of to put it the other way, once more, Senator Castle's emergency bill must pass both houses and come to the Governor on Friday at the latest, if the legislature wishes to put him in a position where he must sign or return it with his signature or his veto. Otherwise it would be possible, though highly improbable, for the Governor to sign the charter bill, which is virtually an enabling clause. Of course, as a matter of fact, if the Governor should sign the charter, it would be supposed that he intended also to sign the enabling clause.

SENATE PASSES BILL

Senator Shingle's bill, creating the office of registrar of firearms for Honolulu and requiring that all sales of firearms and ammunition be recorded, passed third reading yesterday in the senate.

"Our merchant shipping is not large, and such losses as it has suffered have been in small craft, usually through accident due to the risk of passing through the dangerous zones lying around the Entente nations with whom our ships seek to carry on their normal trade. There have been effective representations, which we believe are being met with a suitable regard for our rights and our interests, not only in the particular cases which have arisen, but also in ameliorating the general effect of the damage which the system inflicts on Spain."

FOOD PLENTY IN COAST TOWNS

Exceptionally Large Output Reported By Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco

(By The Associated Press.) SAN FRANCISCO, April 11.—An exceptionally large output of foodstuffs in the Twelfth Federal Reserve District, as far as can be judged now, is predicted in the general bulletin just issued by the federal reserve bank of this city. Mercantile, agricultural and mining conditions are reported as favorable and, in general, the year is described as giving promise of prosperity for the entire district.

Both the lumber industry and shipbuilding have increased their output, the latter being described as "expanding vigorously."

Wheat of Utah wheat is full planted and Idaho reports good prospects in the section where there was practical failure last year, according to the bulletin. In California it is estimated that barley averages will be increased from 650,000 tons to 800,000, hops and alfalfa will be considerably diminished by potatoes, beans and sugar beets.

Cleanings for the nineteen principal cities of this district during February were thirty-two per cent greater than for the corresponding month last year. Seattle, with an increase of fifty per cent, followed by Salt Lake with thirty-five per cent and Los Angeles with thirty per cent.

The following note of warning is sounded: "There is impressive evidence of the important need for the maximum possible production of foodstuffs during the current year, with the certainty of extraordinary demand whether the war continues or not."

COAST CITIES CAREFULLY GUARDING ALL VESSELS

No Chances Taken With Possible Teuton Plotters There

Ships arriving from the mainland bring word of conditions on the San Francisco waterfront vastly different from those prevailing in Honolulu and merchant officers expressed the greatest astonishment that the naval precautions had not been duplicated here.

Reports from vessels agree. The entire San Francisco waterfront is under naval guard and semi-military law prevails, it being impossible to approach the wharves or the ships without written authority of one sort or another. Armed naval guards are stationed at the entrances of every wharf and at the foot of every gangplank and in some cases, it is reported, there were naval guards on the vessels themselves.

That a great many precautions not so visible are being taken is the belief of the arriving ship's officers. This condition was compared by them yesterday with that existing in Honolulu where there are no waterfront or wharf guards, either military or naval, the only guards being stationed on the German ships and the entire front being open to visitors.

Additional San Francisco precautions include the refusal of clearance to any vessel having German nationals among their crews. There were Germans on vessels arriving yesterday but all had their "first papers," the government recognizing them, although they do not confer citizenship.

A Japanese vessel reports that she had to wait for the entire voyage, with the exception of one day, with lights screened or out entirely, the orders having been received from her government. The last day out the wireless dispatch stating Japan's denial of the existence of submarines in the Pacific was received and the lights went on again.

NEW YORK BARS BOOZE FOR DURATION OF WAR

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) NEW YORK, April 18.—All-night licenses for saloons, hotels, roof gardens, restaurants and cabarets were today cancelled by the city for the duration of the war.

ITALIAN SHIPS SUNK

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) ROME, April 19.—The Italian admiralty yesterday issued the formal announcement that during the week ending April 15 seven Italian ships were sunk by mine or submarine.

Aero Club Would Send Aviators To Aid Allies

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) NEW YORK, April 19.—The Aero Club of America yesterday adopted a resolution calling upon the President and the National Defense Council to provide for the training and equipment of one thousand aviators for service against the Germans upon the Western front as soon as possible. The resolution declared that the nation should provide at least three aeroplanes with each aviator.

PRESIDENT FIRM IN HIS DEMAND FOR COMPULSION HE TELLS LEGISLATORS

Mr. Wilson in Conference With Senate Leaders Over Details of the Military Measures Now Pending Before Houses, Insists on Passage of Law Providing For Universal Military Service

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) WASHINGTON, April 19.—The administration came out flatly for conscription by selection yesterday when the President in a statement declared that by this means only could justice be done to all and a great and effective army raised for the work of crushing Prussian militarism.

This statement was made to a number of senators who called upon the President to discuss the army measures now pending before congress, and to learn just what the President wishes to have the houses accomplish in this respect.

Mr. Wilson told the callers that he would not, under the existing conditions consent to any compromise on the principle of compulsory service, which he declared he regarded as the only right means for raising an army in a democracy. He will not be assured the senators go every half way to meet the demands of the anti-conscription forces at work in congress.

He pointed out that the army experts, men in whom he has the fullest confidence have proved to his satisfaction that conscription is the only logical method for meeting the present crisis. He also declared that the majority of the Republicans in the two houses are ready to back him in his demand for conscription.

Later he made his stand even plainer when he went to the capitol to confer with the senate leaders on the war measures, particularly the army bill. The senate military committee showed its agreement with the President by rejecting an amendment authorizing the President to call 500,000 volunteers. Only a few changes have been made in the bill as drawn by the army staff. Opponents of the plan of selective conscription in the house military committee won a victory for the time when the committee, by a vote of twelve to eight, decided to have the army bill carry a provision to try to raise a force of volunteers.

The senate military committee took another attitude. By a vote of ten to seven it decided in favor of conscription.

Later in the day the senate committee on naval affairs voted unanimously to approve the bill giving the President the authority to commandeer American merchant ships for use during the war by the government.

DYNAMITE WITNESS HELD FOR PERJURY

Oxman Arrested and Released Under Heavy Bond On Coast

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) SAN FRANCISCO, April 18.—A warrant was today issued for the arrest of E. C. Oxman, the Oregon cattleman who was a witness for the State in the trial that resulted in the conviction of Thomas Alimony on a murder charge in connection with the San Francisco dynamite bombing. Oxman is charged with subornation of perjury. He was later released on \$2500 bond. Estelle Smith, a witness, has made affidavit that Oxman offered her money to swear to connect Weinberg, accused with Mooney, with the crime. Weinberg's trial is coming soon.

PRUSSIAN STRIKE BY THOUSANDS FOR ENOUGH FOOD

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) COPENHAGEN, April 19.—Well authenticated reports to the Exchange Telegraph Agency from Berlin declare that twenty-five thousand munition workers in Prussia have walked out and are demanding food for themselves and their children and the immediate ending of the war.

The great munition works at Iserlohn, Kregeld and Barmen are idle, not a wheel having turned for several days, but there has been no rioting or other disturbance since at Barmen where an effort was made by the strikers to burn the plant.

The soldiers and police soon had the trouble well in hand, however, but not until three of the strikers were wounded and many were arrested.

The radical newspaper Vorwarts, which several times has been suppressed by the government for too daring statements, declares that the German people want peace. The Vorwarts is quoted as saying that the strike in Berlin is based not only on the lack of food and demand for internal reform but on a deep longing of the people for peace.

ENTENTE SOON MAY ENLIST MEN HERE

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) WASHINGTON, April 18.—The Webb Bill, to permit the Allies to recruit soldiers and sailors in the United States, passed the house today.

COLDS CAUSE HEADACHES LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE removes the cause. Used the world over to cure a cold in one day. The signature of E. W. GROVE is on each box. Manufactured by the FARRIS MEDICINE CO., St. Louis, U. S. A.

NEBRASKA SENATORS FAVOR PROHIBITION

Law Barring Booze From State Now Goes To the Governor

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) LINCOLN, Nebraska, April 19.—The state senate yesterday adopted a report of the conference committee in favor of prohibition. This ends the struggle for prohibition in the State with a victory for the "drys," as the bill is now ready for the signature of the Governor. The law will go into effect May 1 and bans all intoxicating liquors from the State. Even the so-called "near-beer" of other "dry" States is forbidden.

KANSAS TRADE BOARD WANTS BAN ON BOOZE

KANSAS CITY, April 19.—The board of trade yesterday formally adopted a resolution calling upon congress to put a legislative ban upon the use of grain of any sort for the manufacture of alcoholic liquors for beverages.

ALIENS MUST KEEP AWAY FROM FORTS

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) WASHINGTON, April 18.—Instructions were sent out today by Attorney General Gregory to United States marshals that alien enemies residing within half a mile of any fort, military camp, air station, etc., will be required to move prior to June 1, under penalty of arrest.

RUSSIA STANDING FIRM AGAINST PRUSSIANISM

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) WASHINGTON, April 18.—Assurances were received here today that the provisional government of Russia will not yield to overtures of German and Austrian negotiators who have been moving for a separate peace.

HOUSE OF COMMONS WELCOMES AMERICA

(Associated Press by United States Naval Radio Service.) LONDON, April 18.—With cheers and handclapping the house of commons today gave unanimous approval to a resolution by Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Lloyd George, seconded by ex-Premier Asquith, expressing appreciation of the action of the United States in entering the war. A similar scene took place in the house of lords.